



## **CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **For Immediate Release**

### **City, Local Partners Celebrate Solar America Cities Designation Event Took Place Oct. 29, 2007, at the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov. 5, 2007 — The City of Ann Arbor and its local partners gathered last Monday, Oct. 29 to kick off a two-year, \$632,000 project to integrate solar energy throughout the Ann Arbor community.

This initiative is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, which selected Ann Arbor as one of 13 Solar America Cities. DOE will provide a total of \$200,000 in financial assistance to Ann Arbor, who is providing an additional \$230,000 in cost-sharing for this two-year project. Additionally, DOE will provide hands-on assistance from technical and policy experts, valued at \$200,000.

On hand to commemorate the event were John Mizroch, U.S. Department of Energy principal deputy assistant secretary, energy efficiency and renewable energy; Congressman John Dingell; City of Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje; and the following local Solar America Cities partner representatives:

- Jennifer Hall, Ann Arbor Community Development
- Robert Black, Ann Arbor Energy Commission
- Dave Konkle, Ann Arbor Energy Coordinator
- Sean Reed, Clean Energy Coalition
- Susan Pollay, Downtown Development Authority
- Mike Shriberg, Ecology Center
- Jennifer Alvarado, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association
- Mel Drumm, Hands on Museum
- John Sarver, Michigan Energy Office
- Jim Sabre, NEXT Energy
- Gary Was, Phoenix Energy Institute
- Tracey Rettig, UniSolar
- Tony VanDerworp, Washtenaw County

Other partners, not in attendance at the event are the Ann Arbor District Library, the City of Ann Arbor Office of Emergency Management and the Michigan Public Service Commission.

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Community Television Network Comcast channel 16 will replay event coverage at the following times:

- Monday 11/5 at 3:10 p.m.
- Friday 11/9 at 7 p.m.
- Sunday 11/11 at 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 11/14 at 6:15 p.m.

The Ann Arbor Solar America Cities program will work to integrate solar technologies into city energy planning, zoning and facilities; to streamline city-level regulations and practices that affect solar adoption by residents and local businesses; and promote solar technology among residents and local businesses. Programs for outreach, education, curriculum development in the schools, and incentive programs are being considered.

Ann Arbor competed with cities across the U.S. with populations over 100,000 to receive the Solar America Designation; other Solar Cities include: Austin, Texas; Berkeley, Calif.; Boston, Mass.; Madison, Wis.; New Orleans, La.; New York, N.Y.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Diego, Calif.; San Francisco, Calif.; and Tucson, Ariz.

For details on DOE initiatives, visit: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov). For more information, visit the city's Web site at [www.a2gov.org/energy](http://www.a2gov.org/energy).

*Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named one of the top 25 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2006, as well as the third smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.*

The following event photos are available electronically (JPEGs). If you would like the file(s) e-mailed to you, please contact Joanna Satterlee at [jesatterlee@a2gov.org](mailto:jesatterlee@a2gov.org) / 734.996.3155.



Congressman John Dingell addresses guests gathered to kick off the Solar America Cities initiative, Oct. 29, 2007.

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University of Michigan Phoenix Energy Institute Director Gary Was at the podium, Ann Arbor Energy Coordinator Dave Konkle looks on



Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje addresses guests gathered to kick off the Solar America Cities initiative, Oct. 29, 2007.

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